(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some requests have been received by the Government for relaxation in the eligibility criteria, particularly with regard to the period specified for continuous domestic operations. This issue will be addressed in the proposed Civil Aviation Policy.

Private airlines operating in the country

†4289. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private airlines operating in the country at present and the names of said airlines;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint from the passengers travelling in the aircrafts of said private airlines; and

(c) the reason for such a huge difference in the fares of private airlines and Indian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, eight Private Scheduled (Passenger) Airlines and one Scheduled (Cargo) airline are operating in the country. These are: Jet Airways, Air Deccan, Air Sahara, Kingfisher, Spicejet, Go Airlines, Paramount Airways, IndiGo Airline and Blue Dart (Cargo).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The fares offered by Indian Airlines on domestic sectors are commensurate with the product offered and are more or less comparable with those offered by the private airlines offering similar product. The fares offered by Indian Airlines are based on dynamic parameters of market forces like competition, seasonality, supply and demand equation, capacity offered, the potential to generate new traffic by diversion of existing traffic from other modes of transport etc. Some of the private airlines offer lower fare based on their business model and level of service offered.

Upgradation of Mangalore Airport

4290. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Mangalore Airport has recently been declared as an international airport with a limited number of international flights operating therein;

(b) whether there is ample scope and great demand, both from the public and the State Government, to further expand Mangalore Airport into a full fledged international airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's response thereto and the steps, if any, taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Mangalore airport has already been declared as Customs Airport in May, 2006 and the facilities available are sufficient for handling limited international flights.

(b) and (c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated action for construction of new Integrated Terminal Building Complex for handling 500 passengers with all facilities for handling international flights. The new runway 06/24 of dimensions 2450 m X 45 m (8036 ft X 150 ft) is suitable for A 310 - 300 aircraft. There is a very little scope for runway expansion as this runway is a table top runway with deep valleys at either ends.

Boeing's MRO in Nagpur

†4291. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether international aircraft manufacturing company 'Boeing' has decided to set up its MRO in Nagpur;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the same;

(c) whether the Boeing company has been allotted land in Nagpur; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in non allotment of land and by when the land would be allotted to the company to facilitate it to set up its MRO in Nagpur at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the decision of purchase of aircraft from M/s. Boeing by Air India, as a part of its contractual obligation,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.